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OPERATIONS OF USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS,
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1953

STUDY SOILS OF BALTIC REPUBLICS -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 17 Jan 53

During the summer of last year, an interrepublic expedition worked in the Baltic republics, studying the soils of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian SSRs.

I. V. Tyurin, Director of the Soil Institute imeni V. V. Dokuchayev and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, and scientific workers and soil scientists of the Baltic republics took part in the work of the expedition.

The expedition studied the character of the soil cover and the peculiarities of the soil formation process in nine important soil-geographic areas of the Baltic republics. Materials on the fauna of the soil, its chemical composition, and content of organic matter were collected and are being studied.

Members of the expedition, on the basis of materials acquired, prepared a series of scientific works. Decisions were also made concerning questions of soil investigations conducted in the Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian SSRs.

By decree of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences Latvian SSR, the materials acquired as a result of the investigations will be published.

An expedition for the study of the soil cover in Daugavpilskaaya Oblast is included in the 1953 scientific research work plan of the Institute of Soil Science and Agriculture.

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RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR YEAR ANALYZED -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 4 Feb 53

At the Main Geographic Observatory imeni A. I. Voyekov, the results of scientific research work in 1952 have been analyzed. Over a score of projects connected with the solution of national economic problems have been carried out by the observatory.

Among the projects discussed was the important work of studying the condition of the atmosphere near the ground under the influence of irrigation and forest plantings. Scientists of the observatory together with associates of the hydrometeorological services of the Uzbek and Kazakh SSRs and other scientific institutions made a study of the microclimate in the large Pakhta-Arolskiy Cotton-growing Kolkhoz in the Golodnaya Steppe. Results of this study will allow planning organizations to create irrigation projects on a simpler scientific basis for other areas of the country.

A climatic description of the Barabinskaya Lowland has been completed. This is necessary to calculate improved methods for transforming nature in this region of Siberia.

More suitable shelter belt planting methods have been developed for kolkhozes and sovkhozes on the basis of facts obtained by special expeditions of the observatory working the the Middle Volga Region.

PLAN TO SHIFT TEA AND CITRUS CROPS FURTHER NORTH -- Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 3 Feb 53

The Fifth Five-Year Plan envisages an increase in the areas devoted to tea and citrus fruit and cultivation of these crops further to the north.

During the past year, the Institute of Soil Science imeni V. V. Dokuchayev of the Academy of Science USSR began a 3-year investigation of soil areas considered suitable for tea and citrus plantations.

A large expedition was organized in Krasnodarskiy Kray. It was headed by Professor Yuriy Alekseyevich Liverovski. Associates of the above institute, and students of Moscow University and the Agricultural Academy imeni K. A. Timiryazev took part in the expedition.

Most of the material collected by the expedition has already been developed; it shows that it is fully possible to extend tea cultivation further to the north.

Members of the institute also took part in a large expedition of the Academy of Sciences USSR in the Transcarpathian Ukraine, which worked on the same problem. The material collected by the expedition has been developed and indicates similar possibilities.

This summer, the search for land suitable for tea cultivation will continue on the northwestern slopes of the Caucasus.

SEEK NEW FISHING REGIONS IN THE PACIFIC -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 27 Feb 53

Fishing combines and fishing kolkhozes on the shores of the Pacific Ocean are preparing for the spring catch. Preparations for spring are also going forward in the Pacific Ocean Scientific Research Institute of Fishing and Oceanography, which is giving important assistance to fishermen.

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The institute recently received a new ship, "The Lotus", which is equipped for scientific research work in northern waters. V. D. Gordeyev, Candidate of Technical Sciences and head of the expedition, together with G. G. Klement'yev, captain of "The Lotus", is selecting a crew of experienced seamen. Special winches and other devices have been installed on the ship. It will soon sail for the northwestern portion of the Bearing Sea where last year associates of the institute observed large schools of codfish.

B. N. Ayushin, Senior Scientific Associate of the institute, has spent 5 years investigating the behavior of herring in the northern portion of the Sea of Okhotsk. In the next few days, a large expedition of the Main Administration of the Fishing Industry in Primorskiy Kray and the Main Administration of the Fishing Industry in Kamchatka will start out for the spring catch of herring in the northern regions of the Sea of Okhotsk. B. N. Ayushin will head this expedition.

STUDY MEADOWS ALONG LENA -- Izvestiya, 13 Feb 53

Scientific workers of the Biological Sector of the Eastern Siberian Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR are giving practical help to agriculture. The Lena expedition of L. I. Nomokonov, Candidate of Biological Sciences, has completed the first scientific description of the bottomland meadows from the sources of the Lena River to the mouth of the Vitim River. The grass grown on bottomland meadows that have been studied forms the fodder base for cattle-raising in the kolchozes along the Lena.

COMPILE NEW GEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARIES -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 8 Feb 53

On 6 and 7 February, the work of members of the academies of sciences of the union republics for the creation of geographical dictionaries was discussed at the Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

Most geographical names change in the course of time and many new ones appear. These changes are taken into account in the dictionaries. Concise data concerning the correct writing of geographical terms in the Russian language and the languages of the peoples of the USSR are given in systematic form in them.

Recently, a short geographical dictionary of Armenia was published in Yerevan. Dictionaries on the geography of the Azerbaydzhan and Kazakh SSRs are being prepared. A similar work is being carried out in the Georgian SSR.

PROSPECT FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND WATER -- Moscow, Pravda, 3 Jan 53

Prospecting work is taking place on the banks of the ancient Uzboy River. Field detachments are searching for materials necessary for construction of the Main Turkmen Canal.

A Pravda correspondent communicated by radio with the water supply detachment of the southern expedition of the Turkmen Geological Administration and obtained the following information from N. G. Shevchenko, engineer-hydrologist and chief of the detachment:

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The detachment is working in the region of Lake Yashkan on the Uzboy River. Its task is to study the hydrogeologic conditions of the sand dune region and to find sources of fresh water. Preliminary investigations indicate that there is a large supply of underground fresh water, extremely necessary to cattle breeders in remote pasture lands and to canal construction workers.

VARIED RESEARCH IN KARA-KALPAKSKAYA ASSR -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 23 Jan 53

During 1953, scientists of the Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR will continue investigation of problems connected with construction of the Main Turkmen Canal. The Kara-Kalpakskaya Experimental Station is conducting large-scale experimental and research work on land located in the construction zone. Scientific candidates Ziyavutdinov and Shteyngardt have begun scientific investigation of the possibilities for developing the economy of Kegeylinskiy Rayon. Study of fish pests and parasites in the lower reaches of the Amu-Dar'ya River will be continued. All materials obtained by the expeditions in 1952 will undergo laboratory study in 1953.

This year, the first work on the history of the Kara-Kalpak people will be published.

EMULSION FIXES SAND -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 3 Jan 53

In the western portion of the Kara Kum Desert, there is an area where the wind is now powerless to move the sand dunes because they have been fixed with a bituminous emulsion. This work was done by the expedition of the Agrophysical Institute of Agricultural Science imeni Lenin, headed by Zakharovkiy, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences.

This experiment was conducted on an area of 60 hectares in the Nebit Dag region. The sands were covered with a bituminous emulsion which the trees and shrubs can easily penetrate. It has been proven that the emulsion protects plants better than mechanical protective devices. On a hectare of ground spread with the bituminous emulsion, 200,000 plants grew up; on a hectare where protective devices were used, only 70,000 appeared.

Work on the fixing of sands with a bituminous emulsion has now shifted to the northern section of the Main Turkmen Canal zone. V. P. Dubrovskiy, a member of the expedition, has submitted to the Administration for Hydraulic Construction in Central Asia the text of an agreement concerning cooperation between the institute and the administration.

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